

The Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS) for Public Library Data CHRONOLOGY 1980-2003

Following is an organized list of selected activities, procedures, and events in the development and progress of The Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS) for Public Library Data.

Also listed are other publications from other NCES library surveys.

1980-88

NCLIS and NCES establish semiannual statistical update meetings, chaired by Mary Alice Hedge, NCLIS. The meetings involve representatives of federal agencies and national organizations, e.g., the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), the American Library Association (ALA), the United States Bureau of the Census, and the United States Department of Education's Office of Library Programs, concerned about the quality of library and information services data.

1983-84

As a result of the work of Mary Jo Lynch at ALA, NCES enters into contract with ALA to conduct an *Analysis of Library Data Collection and Development of Plans for the Future*. The study evaluated statistics collected by NCES, prepared model questionnaires, and recommended that NCES persuade the states to collect key library data items in a standard fashion.

11/1984

ALA submits proposal to United States Department of Education requesting funds for pilot project to work with a small group of states to explore the feasibility of a system that will annually collect and publish public library statistics related to the general condition of public library services. Mary Jo Lynch serves as project chair.

1985

The Office of Library Programs and NCES provide financial support for the pilot project.

10/1985

An ALA Advisory Committee is appointed and principles established. All fifty state library agencies invited to participate in the pilot project; fifteen state library agencies officially participated.

3/1986

Participating states send one or two representatives to a workshop in Chicago. By the end of the project, all fifteen states were able to send standard data elements based on standard definitions to NCES in machine-readable form.

8/1987

Pilot project officially completed. Final report submitted recommending that work begin immediately on a fifty-state system.

1988

P.L. 100-297 (the Hawkins-Stafford Elementary and Secondary School Improvement Act of 1988) is passed charging NCES to collect statistics about libraries and mentions the need for a federal-state cooperative system for public library data.

2/1988

First annual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between NCES and NCLIS. The agreement authorizes the development of a cooperative, comprehensive, and consistent national Library Statistics Program (LSP).

3/1988

Task force of library leaders established under NCES/NCLIS program and Action Plan developed. John G. Lorenz becomes Consultant to NCLIS and serves as Coordinator of LSP.

Chief Officers of State Library Agencies asked to designate state data coordinators in each of the states and the District of Columbia.

12/1988

First official annual training workshop for state data coordinators from each of the states and the District of Columbia, held in Annapolis, MD, to train the coordinators in data collection, transfer of the data to machine-readable form, and to respond to questions and problems. Training workshops held annually thereafter.

1989

Second MOU for Fiscal Year 1989 signed. MOU amended to include development of a survey instrument regarding school library media centers and school library media specialists to be incorporated in the 1991 NCES School and Staffing Survey (SASS). Agreements signed annually thereafter.

Contract let to prepare software to be provided to all of the State Library Agencies to create a Public Library Universe File, a directory of every public library building, including branches and public library bookmobiles in the Nation.

8/1989

Forty-four states and the District of Columbia submit standard public library data for 1988 in computer-readable form to NCES on diskettes using software known as *Data Entry Conversion and Table Output Program* (DECTOP). However, data submitted did not fully meet NCES

standards, including percentage of states and public libraries reporting, and could not be published officially. NCLIS released the data as a working paper. 1

This was the most rapid publication of any comprehensive national educational data survey to occur and was a result of the fact that, for the first time ever, data could be edited, compiled, and published directly from the disks or magnetic tapes submitted by the states.

12/1989

Second workshop held. DECTOP software package improved and hands-on training provided.

FSCS Steering Committee established and bylaws drafted. Jan Feye-Stukas, Minnesota State Data Coordinator, elected as first chair.

1990

NCLIS/NCES cooperative program assumes new responsibility for applying some of the principles of FSCS to improving the biennial collection of academic library statistics. Software developed to enter data at the state level for all of the academic libraries included in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems (IPEDS).

User Review Panel on library statistics, with representatives of the major types of libraries, organized to review present and future development of statistics for libraries and to make recommendations on statistics needed in preparation for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

Two model training programs (Nevada and Texas) were funded to improve the quality of local public library statistical collection and reporting.

Two meetings held with the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) on the present and future plans for the improvement and development of nationwide library statistics.

12/1990

Third annual workshop held to provide software training, discuss problems, design solutions, and make recommendations for improving FSCS.

1991

NCES recognizes and establishes a new Library Statistics Unit with responsibility for FSCS as well as academic and school library statistics.

Universe file records under the FSCS were completed and submitted by all states. 1

1/1991

Public library data for all 50 states and the District of Columbia for 1989 was found to meet the requirements of NCES' internal review process needed for an official publication.

4/1991

GPO publishes first E.D. TAB Report, *Public Libraries in 50 States and the District of*

Columbia: 1989. The first compilation of data from 8,699 public libraries in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, based on national standard data elements and definitions.

11/1991

First Invitational Seminar on Research and Policy Analysis Using Public Library Data hosted by LSP for the purpose of informing researchers and public policy staff on the national system of library data collection and compilation, and encouraging their use of the data for analysis, and eliciting suggestions for improving the data files.

1992

The Francis Keppel Award established. The award is in the form of a working abacus with mounted engraved brass plates. It is awarded each year to the qualifying Chief Officers of State Library Agencies and State (and Territory) Data Coordinators for submitting the most prompt, complete, and high quality public library data. The late Mr. Keppel is one of the best known United States Commissioners of Education who served from 1962 to 1965 and a distinguished Member of NCLIS from 1978 to 1983 and was adamant about the need for high-quality library data.

3/1992

The 1990 public library data for all the states and the District of Columbia was released electronically for the first time.

6/1992

Second E.D. TAB Report, *Public Libraries in the United States: 1990* published and distributed.

4/1993

E.D. TAB Report, *Public Libraries in the United States: 1991* published and distributed.

12/1993

Sixth annual national training workshop held includes representatives of the five United States Territories: Guam, Northern Marianas, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands.

1994

The Helen M. Eckard Award established. The award is in the form of an engraved plaque and is awarded each year for the use of one or more items of FSCS data in a publicly released product (e.g., book, video, article, brochure). The late Mrs. Eckard was an NCES staff member who provided outstanding leadership as a professional librarian for the support of timely handy, and high-quality library statistics.

8/1994

E.D. TAB Report, *Public Libraries in the United States: 1992* published and distributed.

1995

Public Libraries in the United States, Fiscal Year 1993: Selected Data and Rankings, by State published. Provided at the request of the FSCS Steering Committee by the National Data Resource Center.

6/1995

E.D. TAB Report, *Public Libraries in the United States: 1993* published.

12/1995

Planning meeting held for first Survey of Library Cooperatives. Survey to begin in 1997.

6/1996

NCES published the first annual *E.D. TAB Report State Library Agencies, Fiscal Year 1994*.

7/1996

First *E.D. TAB Report on Federal Libraries and Information Centers in the United States: 1994* published by NCES.

3/1997

FSCS for Public Library Data held 10th anniversary annual Training Workshop at the same location where it began in Annapolis, MD.

5/1997

E.D. TAB Report, *Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 1994* published by NCES.

Summer 1997

Second Library Statistics Cooperative Program brochure published. A compilation of information on the six types of data being collected by NCES: Academic Libraries, Public Libraries, School Library Media Centers, State Library Agencies, Federal Libraries and Information Centers, and Library Cooperatives.

8/1997

E.D. TAB Report, *State Library Agencies, Fiscal Year 1995* published by NCES.

9/1997

NCES/NCLIS Library & Information Services Policy Forum held in Arlington, VA. The forum focused on "Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) State Grant Program: Implications for Use of and Additions to National Library Data."

9/30/1997 John G. Lorenz retired having served 10 years as the Library Statistics Program Coordinator.

3/1998

11th FSCS Training Workshop held in Alexandria, VA.

3/1998

John G. Lorenz award established. The award will consist of certificate and memento plaque indicating the state, year, and name of the award. The award is given to the State library agency and honors both (1) the data coordinator or other StLA staff member who submitted the data on behalf of the chief officer, and (2) the Chief Officer of the qualifying state library agency.

6/1998

E.D. TAB Report, *State Library Agencies, Fiscal Year 1996* published by NCES.

8/1998

E.D. TAB Report, *Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 1995* published by NCES.

8/1998

School Library Media Centers: 1993-94 published by NCES.

9/1998

Meeting held to discuss NCLIS Role in the Library Statistics Cooperative Program (participants included members of five federal NCES surveys)

2/1999

E.D. TAB Report, *Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 1996* published by NCES.

3/1999

12th FSCS Training Workshop held in Rockville, MD

E.D. TAB Report, *State Library Agencies, Fiscal Year 1997* published by NCES.

6/1/1999

Denise M. Davis named NCLIS Director of Statistics and Surveys.

9/1999

Third Library Statistics Cooperative Program brochure published.

School Library Media Center Survey task group meets on September 24, 1999. Twelve experts from school library media centers, graduate-level information science educators, Library Statistics Program staff, and two NCLIS Commissioners participated in a one-day strategic planning meeting for the SLMC survey. Additional meetings will be held in Fiscal Year 2000 to continue discussions on improving timeliness of reporting and publishing SLMC data through NCES.

10/1999

NCES launches revised website for the LSP, making E.D. TAB available online, and creating a peer comparison tool and library locator. <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/>

1/2000

E.D. TAB Report, *Academic Libraries: 1996* published by NCES

2/2000

E.D. TAB Report, *State Library Agencies, Fiscal Year 1998* published by NCES.

3/2000

13th FSCS Professional Development Conference (formerly called the FSCS Training Workshop) held in San Antonio, TX.

6/2000

E.D. TAB Report, *Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 1997* published by NCES.

9/2000

E.D. TAB Report, *State Library Agencies, Fiscal Year 1999* published by NCES.

9/2000

State Library Agency Customer Satisfaction Survey Feasibility Study: Executive Summary submitted to NCES.

3/2001

14th FSCS Professional Development Conference held in Washington, DC.

7/2001

E.D. TAB Report, *Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 1998* published by NCES.

6/2001

Public Library Trends Analysis Fiscal Years 1992-1996 published by NCES.

7/2001

E.D. TAB Report, *Academic Libraries: 1998* published by NCES.

8/2001

Fourth Library Statistics Cooperative Program brochure published by NCLIS.

11/2001

E.D. TAB Report *State Library Agencies: Fiscal Year 2000* published by NCES.

12/2001

15th FSCS Professional Development Conference held in Washington, DC.

2/2002

E.D. TAB Report, *Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 1999* published by NCES.

7/2002

E.D. TAB Report, *Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 2000* published by NCES.

10/2002

E.D. TAB Report *State Library Agencies: Fiscal Year 2001* published by NCES.

11/2002

Fifth Library Statistics Cooperative Program brochure published by NCLIS.

12/2002

16th FSCS Professional Development Conference held in Scottsdale, AZ

12/2002

Robert Molyneux named NCLIS Director of Statistics and Surveys.

6/2003

E.D. TAB: *Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 2001* published by NCES.

NCES Products: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=041>

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